

## Reflective Blog Posts

As we study the play *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, you will reflect at least twice a week in a reflective blog. You will also comment on at least two classmates' blogs each week. These blog posts will help you develop ideas for your essay.

### What's the difference between a blog and a journal or diary?

The word "blog" evolved from "web log." It is an online journal or diary, and while some people do blog about very personal things, what distinguishes it from a traditional diary or journal is that it is at least semi-public and usually allows others to comment.

### Why blog instead of write in a private journal?

Private journaling has its place, but public writing requires a different level of thought. When you know that someone else will read your writing, you tend to think about it in a different way. You are more careful to make good word choices explain your thoughts clearly. It also allows for dialogue because others can comment on your work. Don't think of a blog post as a traditional "published" piece of writing. When you publish a piece of writing—it's finished, but when blog, you can keep adding, exploring, and changing ideas. You can also add links to other interesting sites, upload images, music, and video (just make sure you have permission to do so).

We will blog on our *Hamlet* ning. That means that these blogs are semi-public in that they can be viewed only by members of the ning. See my page on the ning for an example.

### Level 4 Blog Post Criteria

- At least 2 posts a week
- Effective title
- Appropriate image that enhances the post (creative-commons, or your own work)
- Use of hyperlinks for referencing
- Clear tags
- 3 + paragraphs
- Text-to-text, text-to-self, text-world connections
- No spelling or grammar errors (sentence fragments and slang may be used for effect, but keep the tone respectful and school-appropriate)

### Level 4 Comment Criteria

- At least two comments a week on a classmates' blogs
- 4+ sentences per comment
- Respond to comments on your posts
- Comments extend the conversation
- Thoughtful, insightful, respectful, professional

You will receive an overall mark out of 20 for your blog posts and comments throughout this unit.

